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PATENT

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the Patent Application of

Inventor(s): DONALD E. WALLAR II

For: MESSAGE COMPOSITION COMPUTER, MEMORY MEDIA AND METHOD

Enclosed with the Patent Application are:

EIGHT sheet(s) of informal drawing(s)
 A Declaration and Power of Attorney
 Information Disclosure Statement (PTO Form 1449)
 A certified copy of a _____ application.
 An assignment of the invention to: International Business Machines Corporation including \$40.00 recordation fee

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 01-0467. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.

Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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MESSAGE COMPOSITION COMPUTER, MEMORY MEDIA AND METHOD**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5 This invention relates to the composition of messages for a computer. In particular, the invention provides a message creator program for a computer, a memory media for the program and a method of composing computer messages.

10 **DESCRIPTION OF THE ART**

Programs running on computers must communicate information to a user of the computer and to other programs. Large programs, such as operating systems and applications, create a large number of messages that must be communicated to a system operator or to a user.

Some of these messages may simply be informative messages, such as informing a user that an action has been completed or a resource is now available. Other messages warn or alert a user that something is not as expected, such as a file is not in an expected format. Still other messages inform the user of an error or failure, such as an attempt to open file that does not exist.

Such computer messages are composed by computer program designers and stored in a computer message file. When an operating event occurs that requires a certain message, the required message is accessed from the computer message file and communicated visually or orally to the user.

The computer messages are stored in the computer message file in a particular format with format tags that indicate various format issues, such as field delimiters, message types, message identity, message composer identity and the like. Two formats that have been used are book manager script and Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). Book manager script and SGML require different format tags. The composition of a message in either of these formats requires the composer to have a special knowledge of the formats. Even with this special knowledge, considerable time is required to accurately insert the format tags. This often results in errors in the formatted message.

Message processing procedures for the generation of informative messages are known. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,287,444 discloses a message generation procedure for presenting a message in a selected national language. The procedure processes a formatted message with the syntax of the selected national language to produce the message in such language. However, this procedure does not alleviate the burdens of forming a formatted message with format tags.

Another example of a known message utility is described in an article entitled VMS Message Utility, The Software journal for VMS, April, 1988, at pages 27 through 29. This utility converts a message written in source code with format tags to a VMS message format. However, the message composer is still burdened with having to write the message in source code with embedded format tags.

Accordingly, there is a need for a message composition tool that relieves a message composer of the time consuming burden of preparing a formatted computer message with format tags, that reduces errors, and that saves time in 5 composition of messages..

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The method of the present invention allows a user to 10 compose a computer message in either SGML, book manager script or formatted display without any special knowledge of the format tags and rules. The method presents on a display monitor a message composition area, a message selector and a formatted message display area. The message selector includes plural format choices, for example, SGML, 15 book manager script and formatted display. The user enters an unformatted textual message in the message composition area. The message is automatically converted by a message creator program into a selected one of the message formats 20 to form a formatted message with format tags. The formatted message is then displayed in the display area. When two or more messages are entered in the template, the message creator program forms concatenated complete message in the selected format for display in the display area.

25

The message composition area, message selector and formatted message display area are formed on a template that is presented on a web page using an HTML utility and the message creator program uses a Java script utility to 30 present a Java script/HTML interface to the user.

The computer of the invention employs the message creator program in an interactive manner with the user composer.

5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other and further objects, advantages and features of the present invention will be understood by reference to the following specification in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters denote like elements of structure and:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a system for creating messages in formats directly usable in book files according to the present invention;

FIGS. 2 and 3 depict a template filled in for composition of an SGML formatted message for the FIG. 1 system;

FIG. 4 depicts the complete message display area of the template for a book manager formatted message;

FIG. 5 depicts the complete message display area of the template for a display formatted message;

FIG. 6 is a process flow diagram of the process steps of the method of the present invention;

FIG. 7 depicts a tagging help drop down box for the FIG. 1 system; and

FIG. 8 is a process flow diagram of the format conversion step of the FIG. 2 process.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

5

Referring to FIG. 1, a data processing system 12 includes a computer 20, a user terminal 40, a computer message file 50 and a book creator application 52.

10 Computer 20 includes a memory 22, an operating system 24, a Java script utility 28, a message creator program 26 and a web server 30. Message creator program 26 is stored in memory 22. Web server 30 includes an HTML utility to provide web pages to user terminal 40.

15 User terminal 40 includes a keyboard 42, a mouse 44, a monitor 46 and a browser 40. Browser 40 enables web pages to be accessed from an Intranet or an Internet and viewed on monitor 46. User terminal 20 may suitably be a PC or any other device with a browser and textual input 20 capability.

The actual locations of computer message file 50 and book creator application are unimportant to the present invention. They can be located within user terminal 40, 25 computer 20 or in another computer that communicates with user terminal via an Internet, Intranet or other communication facility.

Web server 30, though shown in FIG. 1 as integrated 30 into computer 20, can alternatively be a separate web server.

A memory media 55 containing message creator program 26 is provided for the purpose of loading message creator program 26 into memory 22.

5 Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3, the method of the present invention presents a web page 60 on monitor 46 of user terminal 40 (FIG. 1). Web page 60 begins on FIG. 2 and continues onto FIG. 3. Web page 60 includes a template 62 that includes a plurality of areas for the formatted
10 message composition process. Exemplary messages are shown entered into several of these areas. To start message entry, the user enters a message number in a message number area 64, the user's name and the date in an originator area 66, a computer message in an unformatted message area 68, 15 an explanation message in an explanation area 70, a severity rating in a severity area 72 and a system action message in a system action area 74.

The exemplary messages have been chosen to illustrate
20 the formatting capability of the invention. More typically, the computer message entered into text area 68 might be a message, such as "Printer Error" and the message entered in explanation area 70 might be "Check Printer Cable".

25 An operator response area 76 and a programmer response area 78 are used by a system operator and a programmer to provide commentary to the messages entered by the user. The user or others may enter additional messages in an
30 other messages area 80. All of these messages are unformatted and in simple text.

The user selects the format type for the messages from a format selector, shown as a selection box 84. Selection box 84 affords the user the format choices of SGML (shown as selected in FIG. 3), book manager script and formatted display.

To develop the complete formatted message from the messages entered in areas 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74 and 76, the user selects the create complete message button 86.

10 This invokes message creator program 26 to convert these messages to a concatenated complete message with format tags for the selected format. The complete formatted message is shown in a complete message display area 82 with SGML format tags.

15 FIG. 4 shows complete message display area 82 for the same message example in book manager script. FIG. 5 shows complete message display area 82 for the same message example in formatted display. The formatted display choice 20 allows the user to view the complete message as it will appear in the computer message book. By using a feature such as copy and paste or copy or save to a file, the user can use the completed text in a variety of applications other than book creator application 52.

25 Referring to FIG. 6, the method of the present invention is shown in a flow diagram having a left hand column for activities performed by the user and a right hand column for activities performed by computer 20, under control of message creator program 26. The method begins at step 90 with the user operating user terminal 20 to access web page 60. In step 91, computer 20, acting under

the control of message creator program 26, loads web page 60 to web server 30 for presentation to user terminal 40.

In step 92, the user enters unformatted messages in simple text to template 62. In step 93, message creator program 26 provides drop down choices, select buttons and hyperlinks for help and examples. In step 94, the user selects the type of output format for the entered messages by operating selection box selector 84. At step 96, the user selects create complete message button 86 to form the complete message in the selected format.

Message creator program 26 then responds at step 95 to determine the selected format type. At step 97, message creator program 26 then converts the unformatted messages into a formatted complete message with format tags for the selected format. The user at step 98 can copy the formatted complete message to computer message file 50 Book creator application 52 uses the messages in computer message file 50 to create a computer message book. Alternatively, the user can use tag help as needed to edit the message.

Referring to FIG. 7, a tag help box 120 is useful if the message is to contain lists or definitions that require special formatting. Tag help box 120 may either be a selectable drop down box or a box contained within template 62. To use tag help 120, the user must select the output format type at select box 122. Also, the user must select at select box 124 the text element from choices such as definition list, ordered list, unordered list and the like. An ordered list, for example, might be ordered numerically,

while an unordered list might be identified by bullets. The user must also insert in number box 126 the number of items in the list.

5 Consider an example where the list is a definitional list as follows:

Apple - Delicious fruit that grows on a tree and comes
in a variety of colors.

10 Banana - Not an apple, but delicious and best when yellow in color.

For this example, the user has selected SGML as the
15 output format, the definition list as the list type and 2
as the number of definitions in the list. The user then
activates a create output button 128. A formatted
definition list is displayed in display area 130 for
editing by the user. The formatted definition list
20 includes variable items, term1 and term2. The user
replaces term1 and term2 with apple and banana,
respectively. The formatted definition list also includes
variable items, definition1 and definition2. The user
replaces definition1 and definition2 with the definitions
25 for apple and banana, respectively. The user can then cut
the formatted list from display area 130 and paste it into
a file, program, or in the complete message area 82.

According to another aspect of the method of the
30 invention, a user can obtain a formatted computer message
from computer message file 50, enter it into complete
message display area 82 and select the message format type.
The user then edits the message. When finished, the user
returns the edited message to computer message file 50.

The user can edit the complete formatted message in area 82 at this stage in the process. When the complete formatted message is finished, the user transfers a copy to 5 computer message file 50.

Referring to FIG. 8, step 97 of message creator program 26 is shown in detail for the SGML message of FIGS. 3 and 4. Step 97 begins at step 100 by adding the tags <! 10 and --> to the user name and date entered in area 64 of FIG. 3. Step 102 adds the tags <msgnum> and </msgnum> to the message number entered in area 64. Step 104 adds the tags <msgtext> and </msgtext> to the message entered in area 68. Step 106 adds the tags <msgitem> <p> and </p> to 15 the messages in areas 70, 72, 74 and 76. For example, the explanation message of area 70 is tagged as follows:

```
<msgitem class="explanation">  
 20<p>Here is where the explanation of the message text  
 would be displayed... (i.e., you did not enter the  
 proper key word and the system halted)</p>
```

Step 106 similarly adds tags to the severity, system action and operator response messages. Step 108 causes the 25 messages in areas 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74 and 76 to be displayed in concatenated form as a formatted message with format tags in complete message display area 82.

Thus, the method of the present invention allows a 30 user to compose a computer message in one of three formats without any knowledge of the format tags for any of the formats. The user merely enters unformatted text in the

areas of template 62 on web page 80, selects the format type and selects create complete message button 86. Message creator program 26 then supplies the format tags of the selected format and displays the formatted complete 5 message in display area 82. Message creator program 26 preferably uses the Java script utility 28 to provide a Java script/HTML interface to the user. The method of the present invention eliminates the need for a computer message composer to have a special knowledge of SGML, book 10 manager script of formatted display format tags and rules. Message creator program 26 converts unformatted messages into a concatenated complete message with format tags of the selected format. This reduces error.

15 The present invention having been thus described with particular reference to the preferred forms thereof, it will be obvious that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined in the appended claims.

20

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:-

1. A method for composing a computer message, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) presenting a message composition area for entry of an unformatted message and a message format selector for selecting an output format from a plurality of formats; and

(b) in response to entry of an unformatted message into said message composition area and selection of one of said output formats, converting said unformatted message to form a formatted message with format tags of said one of said output formats.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said message formats include SGML and book manager script.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said message formats further include formatted display.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein computer instructions for steps (a) and (b) are implemented in Java script.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein said unformatted message is a first unformatted message, said formatted message is a first formatted message, said message composition area further includes a formatted display area and wherein step (a) further presents a second message composition area; further comprising:

(c) in response to entry of a second unformatted message into said second message composition area, converting said unformatted message to form a formatted message with format tags of said one of said output formats; and

(d) presenting said first and second formatted messages as a concatenated complete message for display in said formatted message display area.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

(e) editing said first and second formatted messages in said formatted message display area, if needed; and

(f) sending a copy of said formatted message to a computer message file.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said first and second composition areas and said formatted message display area are formed in a template that is presented on a web page, and wherein steps (e) and (f) are performed via said web page.

8. A method of message composition for a computer message file, said method comprising:

(a) presenting a message display area;

(b) obtaining a formatted message from said computer message file;

(c) entering said formatted message in said message display area;

(d) editing said formatted message to form a revised formatted message; and

(e) providing said revised message to said computer message file..

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said message display area is formed in a template that is presented on a web page, and wherein steps (c) and (d) are performed via said web page.

10. A computer comprising:

a web page for presentation on an Intranet or an Internet;

a message creator program for the composition of computer messages, said message creator program performing the following steps:

(a) presenting a message composition area for entry of an unformatted message and a message format selector for selecting an output format from a plurality of formats;

(b) in response to entry of an unformatted message into said message composition area and selection of one of said output formats, converting said unformatted message to form a formatted message with format tags of said one of said output formats.

11. The computer of claim 10, wherein said message formats include SGML and book manager script.

12. The computer of claim 11 wherein said message formats further include formatted display.

13. The computer of claim 12, wherein computer instructions for steps (a) and (b) are implemented in Java script.

14. The computer of claim 12, wherein said unformatted message is a first unformatted message, said formatted message is a first formatted message and said message composition area includes a formatted message display area, and wherein step (a) further presents a second message composition area, and wherein said message creator program further comprises:

(d) in response to entry of a second unformatted textual message in said second message composition area, converting said second unformatted message into said selected one of said formats to form a second formatted message; and

(e) presenting said first and second formatted messages as a concatenated complete message for display in said formatted message display area.

15. A memory media for a computer, said memory media comprising:

means for controlling said computer with a message creator program that performs the following steps:

(a) presenting a message composition area for entry of an unformatted message and a message format selector for selecting an output format from a plurality of formats;

(b) in response to entry of said unformatted message into said message composition area and selection of one of said output formats, converting said unformatted message to form a formatted message with format tags of said one of said output formats.

16. The memory media of claim 15, wherein said message formats include SGML and book manager script.

17. The memory media of claim 16 wherein said message formats further include formatted display.

18. The memory media of claim 16, wherein computer instructions for steps (a) and (b) are implemented in Java script.

19. The memory media of claim 18, wherein said unformatted message is a first unformatted message, said formatted message is a first formatted message, said message composition area includes a formatted message display area and wherein step (a) further presents a second message composition area, and wherein said message creator program further comprises:

(c) in response to entry of a second unformatted textual message in said second message composition area, converting said second unformatted message into said selected one of said formats to form a second formatted message; and

(d) presenting said first and second formatted messages as a concatenated complete message for display in said formatted message display area.

20. A method for composing a computer message, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) presenting a message composition area for entry of an unformatted message, a formatted message display area and a message format selector for selecting an output format from a plurality of formats;

(b) in response to entry of an unformatted message into said message composition area and selection of one of said output formats, converting said unformatted message to form a formatted message with format tags of said one of said output formats; and

(c) presenting said formatted message for display in said formatted message display area.

21. A method for composing a computer message, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving an unformatted message from a user;

(b) selecting one output format for said message from a plurality of output formats; and

(c) converting said unformatted message to a formatted message having an output format selected in step b) and including format tags of said one of said output formats.

22. The method as recited in claim 21, further comprising the added step of:

(d) displaying said formatted message for user review.

23. A memory media controlling a computer to compose a computer message, said memory media comprising:

(a) means for controlling said computer to receive an unformatted message from a user;

(b) means responsive to a user input to control said computer to select one output format for said message from a plurality of output formats; and

(c) means for controlling said computer to convert said unformatted message to a formatted message having an output format selected by means b) and including format tags of said one of said output formats.

24. The memory media as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

(d) means for controlling said computer to display
said formatted message for user review.

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

A method and program for composing computer messages in formats, such as SGML, book manager script or an formatted display. The method enables the composer to compose the computer message without any special knowledge of the format tags and rules for the formats. The composer enters the messages in a template on a web page and the program converts the unformatted messages to messages in a format selected by the composer. The composer can then copy the formatted message to a computer message file or to any other file or application.

Computer Disclosure Disclosure

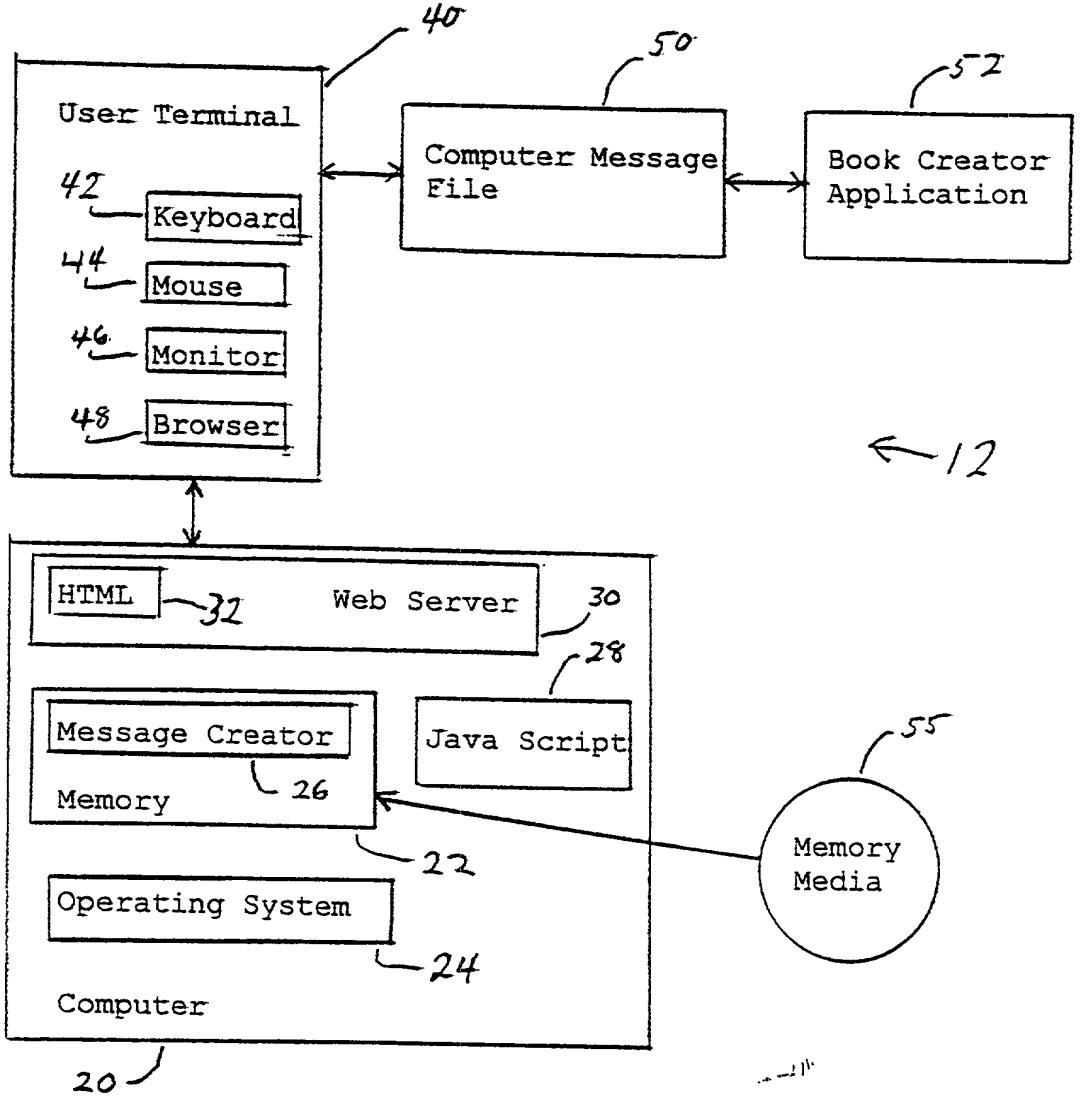


FIG. 1

Number(e.g. DSNZ999I - all caps):

DSNZ999I

62

60

Origination(e.g. Wallar, 03/16/1999, DCR DG999):

Wallar, 08/30/1999

64

66

Message Text(Not used for Codes):

Here is some sample text. In the Messages and
Codes book for DB2, this text would give a
Textual Representation of what the above number
indicates. ... (i.e., The system is not able to
process your information)

68

Explanation:

Here is where the explanation of the Message Text
would be displayed.... (i.e., You did not enter
the proper key word and the system halted)

70

Severity(0-8): (e.g. 4 (warning))

This is where the Severity Code would go... (i.e.,

72

System Action:

This is where the action that the system
completes would go... (i.e. System restarts)

74

Operator Response:

Not all the fields have to be filled in. The
application can determine when to add tagging and
when a field should be committed

76

Programmer Response:

78

Fig. 2

Other Messages

-80

Select Output Type: SGML — 84

Create: Click on the following button to create the completed message in the box below. This will collect and merge all the information you have entered in fields above. If you need help with some additional tags or display formatting, use SGML Help.

Create Complete Message — 86

```
<msg>
<!-- Message Creator Generated, Wallar, 08/30/1999 -->
<msgnum>DSNZ999I<?EKM::subject.DSNZ999I></msgnum>
<msgtext>Here is some sample text. In the Messages and
Codes book for DB2, this text would give a Textual
Representation of what the above number indicates.
...(i.e., The system is not able to process your information)
</msgtext>
<msgitem class="explanation">
<p>Here is where the explanation of the Message Text would
be displayed....(i.e., You did not enter the proper key
word and the system halted)</p>
</msgitem>
<msgitem class="severity">
<p>This is where the Severity Code would go...(i.e., 4
(warning))</p>
</msgitem>
<msgitem class="sysact">
<p>This is where the action that the system completes would
go...(i.e. System restarts)</p>
</msgitem>
<msgitem class="oresp">
<p>Not all the fields have to be filled in. The
application can determine when to add tagging and when a
field should be committed</p>
```

— 82

62

FIG. 3

Select Output Type: BookManager

Create: Click on the following button to create the completed message in the box below. This will collect and merge all the information you have entered in fields above. If you need help with some additional tags or display formatting, use SGML Help.

Create Complete Message 86

```
. -Wallar, 08/30/1999
:msgnum.DSNZ999I
:msg. Here is some sample text. In the Messages and Codes
book for DB2, this text would give a Textual Representation
of what the above number indicates. ..(i.e., The system is
not able to process your information)
:xpl. Here is where the explanation of the Message Text
would be displayed....(i.e.. You did not enter the proper
key word and the system halted)
:severity. This is where the Severity Code would go...(i.e..
4 (warning))
:sysact. This is where the action that the system completes
would go... (i.e. System restarts)
:oresp. Not all the fields have to be filled in. The
application can determine when to add tagging and when a
field should be committed
```

82

FIG. 4

Select Output Type: Display Format:

Create: Click on the following button to create the completed message in the box below. This will collect and merge all the information you have entered in fields above. If you need help with some additional tags or display formatting, use SGML Help.

Create Complete Message 86

DSNZ9991 Here is some sample text. In the Messages and Codes book for DB2, this text would give a Textual Representation of what the above number indicates. ..(i.e., The system is not able to process your information)

Explanation: Here is where the explanation of the Message Text would be displayed....(i.e., You did not enter the proper key word and the system halted)

Severity: This is where the Severity Code would go...(i.e., 4 (warning))

System Action: This is where the action that the system completes would go...(i.e. System restarts) -82

Operator Response: Not all the fields have to be filled in. The application can determine when to add tagging and when a field should be committed

FIG. 5

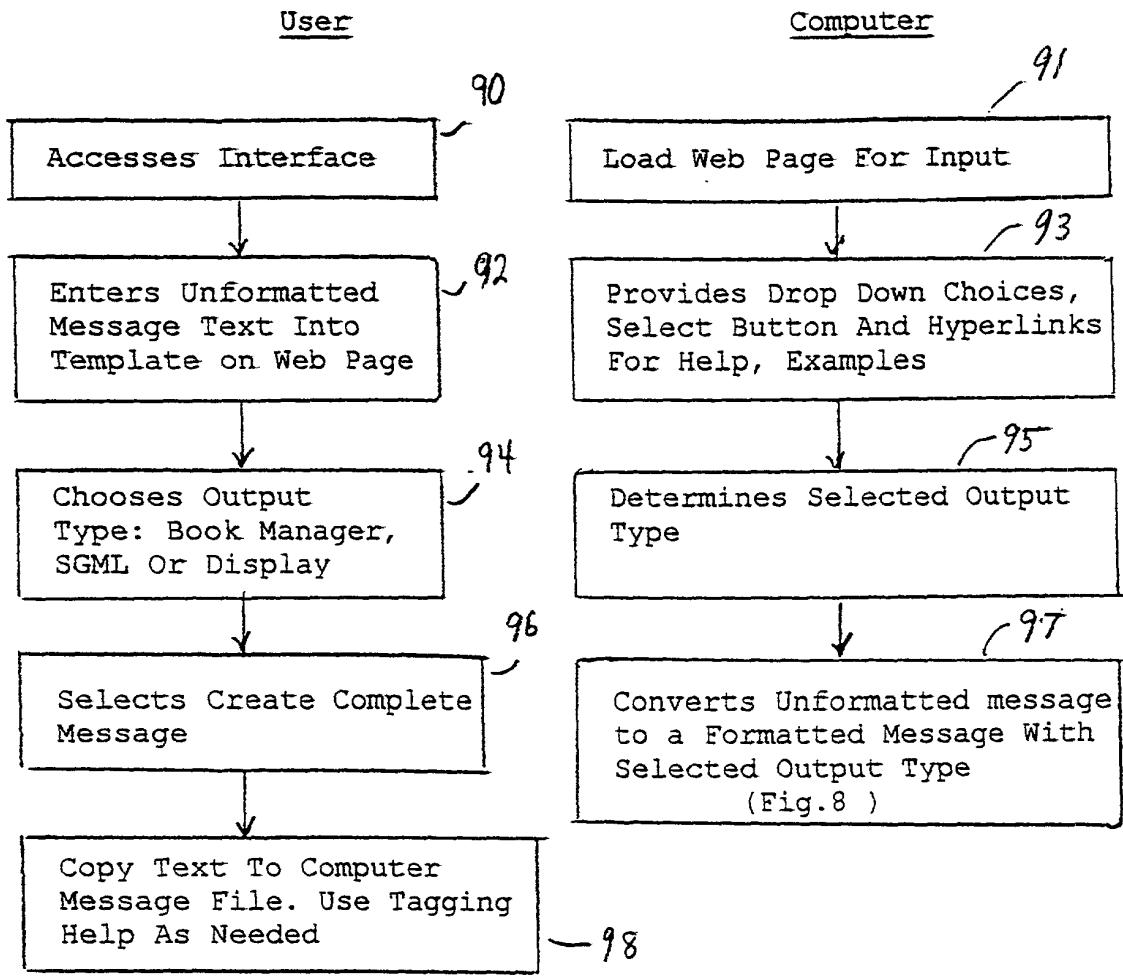


FIG. 6

If you need to enter elements such as lists and paragraphs, use this tag generator to create them or display their format. You can then copy them into the appropriate message section above.

— 120

Select output type:

SGML — 122

Select text element:

Definition: list (dl) — 124

For lists, how many items in list?

— 126

For output examples of the elements, click here:

Create Output — 128

```
<dl>
<dlentry>
<term>
***term1
</term>
<defn>
***definition1
</defn>
</dlentry>

<dlentry>
<term>
***term2
</term>
<defn>
***definition2
</defn>
</dlentry>
```

— 130

FIG. 7

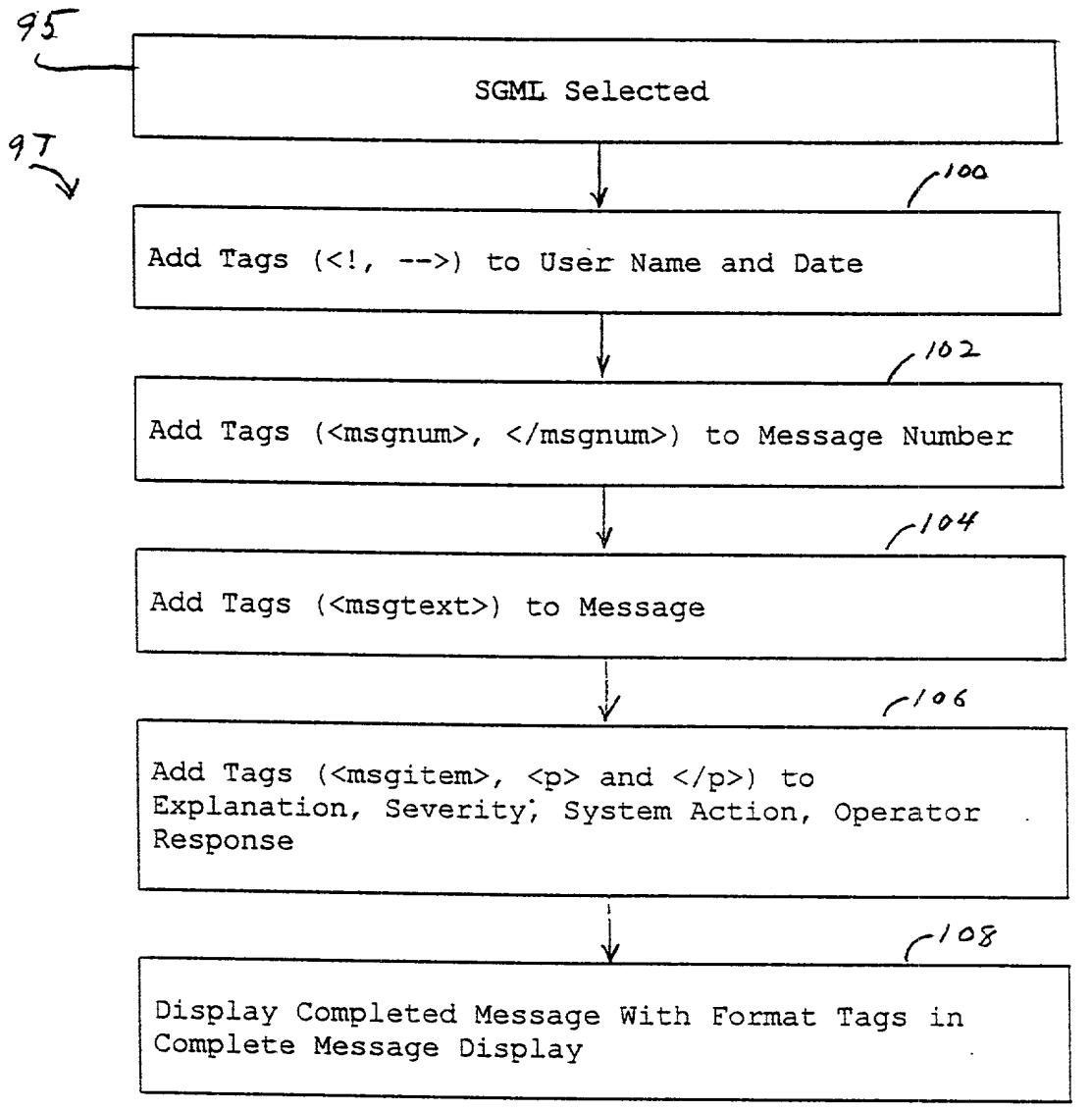


FIG. 8

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET: ST9-99-070

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

MESSAGE COMPOSITION COMPUTER, MEMORY MEDIA AND METHOD

the specification of which (check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on _____

as Application Serial No. _____

and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

None

Yes No

(Number)

(Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56, which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

None

(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET: ST9-99-052

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

Ingrid M. Foerster Reg. No. 35,611	Christopher A. Hughes Reg. No. 26,914	Joseph C. Redmond, Jr. Reg. No. 18,753
Joseph F. Villella, Jr. Reg. No. 30,298	John E. Hoel Reg. No. 26,279	Prentiss W. Johnson Reg. No. 33,123
Timothy M. Farrell Reg. No. 37,321	Edward A. Pennington Reg. No. 32,588	David N. Koffsky Reg. No. 19,905

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